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Income and work: Census

Information on income, occupation and employment

Reference period 2021

Released 28/06/2022

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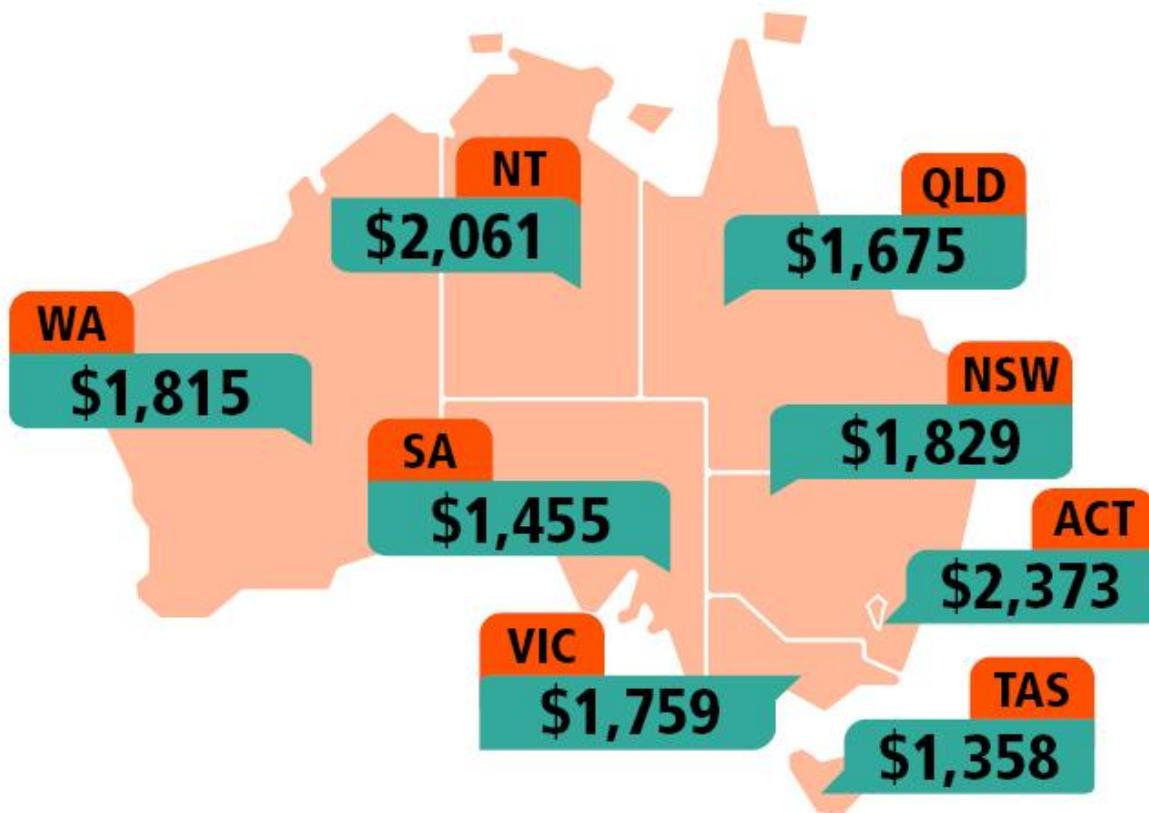
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Key statistics

- 7 million people (7,095,103) were working full-time and 4 million people (3,962,550) were working part-time in the week before the Census.
- The median hours worked in Australia was 38 hours per week.
- Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest employing industry in Australia (14.5 per cent of the workforce), followed by Retail Trade (9.1 per cent) and Construction (8.9 per cent).
- The top three reported occupations were Sales Assistants (General) (514,084), Registered Nurses (262,742) and General Clerks (244,849).
- The national median personal income was \$805 per week. This was a \$143 increase since 2016. This included the adult population from 15 years to over 85 years, including those who are unemployed or retired.
- There were over 9.6 million people earning below the national median personal income

or earning no income.

Median weekly household income



Based on [place of enumeration \(/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/glossary/p#place-of-enumeration\)](#). Excludes visitor only and other non-classifiable households.

Source: Total household income (weekly) ([HIND \(/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/income-and-work/total-household-income-weekly-hind\)](#))

Total personal income (weekly) by state and territory(a), 2021 Census

	Median income	Negative income	Nil income	\$1-\$149	\$150-\$299	\$300-\$399	\$400-\$499	\$500-\$649	\$650-\$799	\$800-\$999
New South Wales	813	48,024	558,019	199,715	301,947	497,863	497,263	472,795	453,482	518,187
Victoria	803	40,097	462,585	181,402	259,576	393,575	398,650	378,559	366,570	437,356
Queensland	787	28,996	303,632	140,223	201,611	325,481	326,763	322,430	306,103	360,782
South Australia	734	9,293	103,721	50,776	81,493	131,617	135,058	121,526	111,354	128,716
Western Australia	848	14,775	175,789	74,433	106,129	153,779	149,720	146,826	135,161	155,856
Tasmania	701	3,018	29,744	14,983	25,490	44,367	46,543	40,553	37,358	41,024
Northern Territory	936	1,319	11,169	6,751	15,308	11,024	9,485	8,923	8,737	12,176
Australian Capital Territory	1,203	1,238	24,751	11,408	13,363	15,655	17,863	19,285	19,895	26,161
Australia(b)	805	146,805	1,669,570	679,812	1,005,072	1,573,594	1,581,612	1,511,161	1,438,936	1,680,606

Please note that there are small random adjustments made to all cell values to protect the confidentiality of data. These adjustments may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from table totals.

- a. Count of persons aged 15 years and over. Based on place of [usual residence \(/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/glossary/u#usual-residence\)](#). Excludes overseas visitors.
- b. Includes Other Territories.

Source: Total personal income (weekly) ([INCP \(/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/income-and-work/total-personal-income-weekly-incip.\)](#))

Census data stories and concepts

Articles and information papers that related to this topic include:

- [Employment in the 2021 Census \(/articles/employment-2021-census\)](#)
- [Australia's journey to work \(/articles/australias-journey-work\)](#) (More information on how Australians travelled to work can be seen on our [interactive map \(https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f8b22f28511845618b4f48f7482e8a37..\)](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f8b22f28511845618b4f48f7482e8a37..))
- [Comparing the 2021 Census and the Labour Force Survey \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/comparing-2021-census-and-labour-force-\)](#)

[survey\).](#)

- [Understanding Place of work data \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/understanding-place-work-data\)](#)
- [Understanding income in administrative data, the Census and ABS surveys \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/understanding-income-administrative-data-census-and-abs-surveys\)](#)
- [New Census insights on income in Australia using administrative data \(/articles/article-644200ffb06b7\)](#)

How Census data is used

Learn how Census data helps community groups, businesses and governments make important decisions.

Census data informs planning for mining fly-in fly-out facilities

Global market research and consulting company Frost & Sullivan used Census data to inform how organisations provide services to fly-in fly-out workers. Census data helped it estimate the total size of the facilities management market in remote areas of Australia.

Mark Dougan, Head of Frost & Sullivan Australia and New Zealand, said the credibility of the data it uses for research is critical and Census data is a key contributor.

"With high quality data, we can help make clients and markets more efficient and informed. That comes from the highest possible completion rate for the Census and highest levels of accuracy," Mr Dougan said.

"We looked at mining sites for fly-in fly-out workers. The camps in these sites are often run by third-party organisations that contract out cleaning, catering and maintenance.

"We knew what the daily charge per resident would be to cover these costs. We also needed to find out how many workers would be staying in the camps across remote Australia at any one time."

Census data provided the number of individuals staying in company-provided accommodation in remote areas on the night of the Census.

"This told us there were about 70,000 individuals using these services, which we then used to calculate the value of the facilities management market."

Frost & Sullivan provides insights to help businesses plan and grow. The company analyses

data to help its clients make strategic decisions to innovate or enter new markets.

By providing analysis of the fly-in fly-out market, Frost & Sullivan has assisted facility management companies to plan, budget and be more competitive.

"Census data adds credibility and enables better informed decisions to be made across a broad spectrum," said Mr Dougan.

See more [Census stories](/census/census-media-hub/news/census-stories).

Key questions in 2021 Census

- What is the total of all income the person usually receives?
- Last week, did the person have a job of any kind?
- In the main job held last week, was the person: (Working for an employer; Working in own business)?
- Was the person's business (Unincorporated; Incorporated)?
- Does the person's business employ people?
- In the main job held last week, what was the person's occupation?
- What are the main tasks that the person usually performs in that occupation?
- For the main job held last week, what was the employer's business name?
- What best describes the industry or business of the employer at the location where the person works?
- What are the main goods produced or main services provided by the employer's business?
- For the main job held last week, what was the person's workplace address?
- Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs?
- Did the person actively look for work at any time in the last four weeks?
- If the person had found a job, could the person have started work last week?

The questions from the 2021 Census are output into variables. To see descriptions of the variables, including data use considerations, relevant to this topic see the [2021 Census dictionary: Income and work](/census/guide-census-data/census-dictionary/2021/variables-topic/income-and-work).

Data downloads

Data table for Income and work data summary

[!\[\]\(de934a296e765b6407859aa0998d38a6_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[168.54 KB]

Other relevant data downloads can be found on the following pages:

[Snapshot of Australia \(/statistics/people/people-and-communities/snapshot-australia/2021#data-download\)](#)

- Total personal income (weekly) by state and territory of usual residence - 2016, 2021

Other ABS links

To access more 2021 Census data, see [Search Census data \(https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area\)](#) or to build your own data sets, see [Census data tools \(https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/census-data-tools\)](#).

Explore other ABS data:

- [Australian labour force \(/statistics#labour\)](#)

Post release changes

13/02/2024 - [New Census insights on income in Australia using administrative data article \(/articles/new-census-insights-income-australia-using-administrative-data#total-weekly-income\)](#), Total weekly income section, High income earners: corrected figure for proportion of high income earners for the applicable population.

12/10/2022 - Key statistics updated with information on employment and occupation. Income and work data summary download file amended to include second release data tables.